

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**CT-268**

**Clarence M. Bowen House**

**3620 Sixes Road**

**Prince Frederick, Calvert County**

**c1925**

**Private**

Built circa 1925, the historic dwelling at 3620 Sixes Road is significant as an example of a rural residence built by African-American craftsman Clarence Bowen. A local entrepreneur, Bowen was a carpenter by profession who owned a sawmill in the vicinity of the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp and made his own concrete blocks. Bowen is known to have been responsible for the construction of at least two other buildings in the area including the Cypress Swamp Tenant House (CT-600) and Carroll Western United Methodist Church (CT-550). As is the case with Bowen's other buildings, the house at 3620 Sixes Road bears close similarities to rural residences and farmhouses built in Calvert County during the first few decades of the 20th century. The use of a traditional residential form at 3620 Sixes Road is reflective of the conservative building practices of a self-taught carpenter and builder. The incorporation of the inset concrete-block porch, however, demonstrates Bowen's willingness to use a relatively new material such as concrete block in creative ways. Bowen's skill is further indicated in the fact that he is also responsible for the construction of at least one of the two barns that were present on the site when it was surveyed in May 1978.

The wood-frame two-story dwelling is set on a solid brick and rock-faced concrete foundation. Presenting an L-shaped plan, the dwelling features a hipped roof with asphalt shingles, a recessed gabled wing with cornice returns, a main block boxed aluminum cornice, and aluminum siding. An interior brick chimney caps the roof. The façade, which faces north, measures five bays in width. Vinyl 1/1 windows with square-edged aluminum surrounds light the elevation. An off-center entry marks the projecting main block, while a secondary entry pierces the screened one-story shed porch. The porch is detailed with arched bays supported by panel-faced concrete block piers, partially covered with aluminum siding. The east elevation measures three bays in width, marked by an inset, screened porch. The porch, supported by rock-faced concrete block piers, features two segmental-arched bays. Four 1/1-vinyl windows with square-edged aluminum surrounds pierces the elevation. A one-story shed addition and a wood deck project south from the rear elevation. Also present on the site is a non-historic shed.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-268

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Clarence M. Bowen House

other

### 2. Location

street and number 3620 Sixes Road not for publication

city, town Prince Frederick vicinity

county Calvert

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Michael Simpson and Laurie Simpson

street and number Unknown telephone Unknown

city, town state zip code

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 27:27

city, town Pr. Frederick liber ABE 313 folio 799

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report  
☐ Other

### 6. Classification

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Current Function                             | Resource Count   |                    |
|---|---|--|--|--------------------|
|   |   |  | Contributing   | Noncontributing    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture         |  |                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade      | <u>1</u>   | <u>1</u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> defense             |  | _____ sites        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic |  | _____ structures   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 |   | <input type="checkbox"/> education           |  | _____ objects      |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary            | <u>1</u>   | <u>1</u> Total     |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> government          |  |                    |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> health care         |  |                    |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> industry            |  |                    |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape           |  |                    |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture  |  |                    |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> religion            |  |                    |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> social              |  |                    |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation      |  |                    |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress    |  |                    |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown             |  |                    |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use   |  |                    |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other:              |  |                    |
|   |   |  | Number of Contributing Resources<br>previously listed in the Inventory |                    |
|   |   |  | <u>1</u>   |                    |

## 7. Description

Inventory No. CT-268

### Condition

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good            | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> altered      |

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

**SETTING.** Located in a rural part of Calvert County, the Clarence Bowen House at 3620 Sixes Road fronts close to the road. Set on a slightly sloping grassy lot, the property is enhanced with mature trees and shrubs, foundation plantings, and a gravel driveway. A non-historic shed further improves the property.

**PRIMARY RESOURCE.** Set on a solid brick and rock-faced concrete foundation, the wood-frame two-story dwelling was constructed circa 1925. Presenting an L-shaped plan, the dwelling features a hipped roof with asphalt shingles, a recessed gabled wing with cornice returns, a main block boxed aluminum cornice, and aluminum siding. An interior brick chimney caps the roof. The façade, which faces north, measures five bays in width. Vinyl 1/1 windows with square-edged aluminum surrounds light the elevation. An off-center entry marks the projecting main block, while a secondary entry pierces the screened one-story shed porch. The porch is detailed with arched bays supported by panel-faced concrete-block piers, partially covered with aluminum siding. The east elevation measures three bays in width, marked by an inset, screened porch. The porch, supported by rock-faced concrete block piers, features two segmental-arched bays. Four 1/1-vinyl windows with square-edged aluminum surrounds pierce the elevation. A previous MIHP form with undated photographs shows the dwelling with original 2/2 wood windows. A one-story shed addition and a wood deck project south from the rear elevation.

**SECONDARY RESOURCES.** A circa 2000 one-story, wood-frame shed features pressed vertical-board cladding and a gambrel roof with asphalt shingles. A tornado in 1978 destroyed two historic barns said to have been built by Clarence Bowen. (1)

### ENDNOTES

(1) Stinson, Merry. "Clarence Bowen House and Barns," CT-268. Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CT-268

| Period  | Areas of Significance                            | Check and justify below                               |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics                    | <input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine        | <input type="checkbox"/> performing arts     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology              | <input type="checkbox"/> education                    | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering                  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/<br>recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000-                | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage   | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science             |  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/<br>settlement   | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> social history      |  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning      |   | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry      | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation      |  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation            |   | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> other:              |  |

Specific dates c1925

Architect/Builder Clarence M. Bowen

Construction dates c1925

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Built circa 1925, the historic dwelling at 3620 Sixes Road is significant as an example of a rural residence built by African-American craftsman Clarence Bowen. A local entrepreneur, Bowen was a carpenter by profession who owned a sawmill in the vicinity of the Battle Creek Cypress Swamp and made his own concrete blocks. (1) Bowen is known to have been responsible for the construction of at least two other buildings in the area including the Cypress Swamp Tenant House (CT-600) and Carroll Western United Methodist Church (CT-550). As is the case with Bowen's other buildings, the house at 3620 Sixes Road bears close similarities to rural residences and farmhouses built in Calvert County during the first few decades of the 20th century. The use of a traditional residential form at 3620 Sixes Road is reflective of the conservative building practices of a self-taught carpenter and builder. The incorporation of the inset rock-faced concrete-block porch, however, demonstrates Bowen's willingness to use a relatively new material such as rock-faced concrete block in creative ways. Bowen's skill is further indicated in the fact that he is also responsible for the construction of at least one of the two barns that were present on the site when it was surveyed in May 1978. (2)

### ENDNOTES

(1) Parker, Alecia A. Human Interaction with Battle Creek Cypress Swamp. A report prepared for the Battle Creek Nature Education Society. Property Files. Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center, Prince Frederick, MD.

(2) Parker, Alecia A. Human Interaction with Battle Creek Cypress Swamp. A report prepared for the Battle Creek Nature Education Society. Property Files. Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Nature Center, Prince Frederick, MD.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CT-268

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 3.0 Acres

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Broomes Island

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The historic house is located at 3620 Sixes Road in Prince Frederick, Maryland. The house has been associated with Tax Map 27, Parcel 27 since its construction circa 1925. The current deed to the property can be found in the land records of Calvert County in the Calvert County Courthouse in Prince Frederick: Deed Book ABE 313, Page 799.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carrie E. Albee and Jennifer B. Hallock, Architectural Historians

organization EHT Traceries, Inc.

date 2/3/03

street and number 1121 5th Street, NW

telephone 202-393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CT-268

Name Clarence M. Bowen House

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

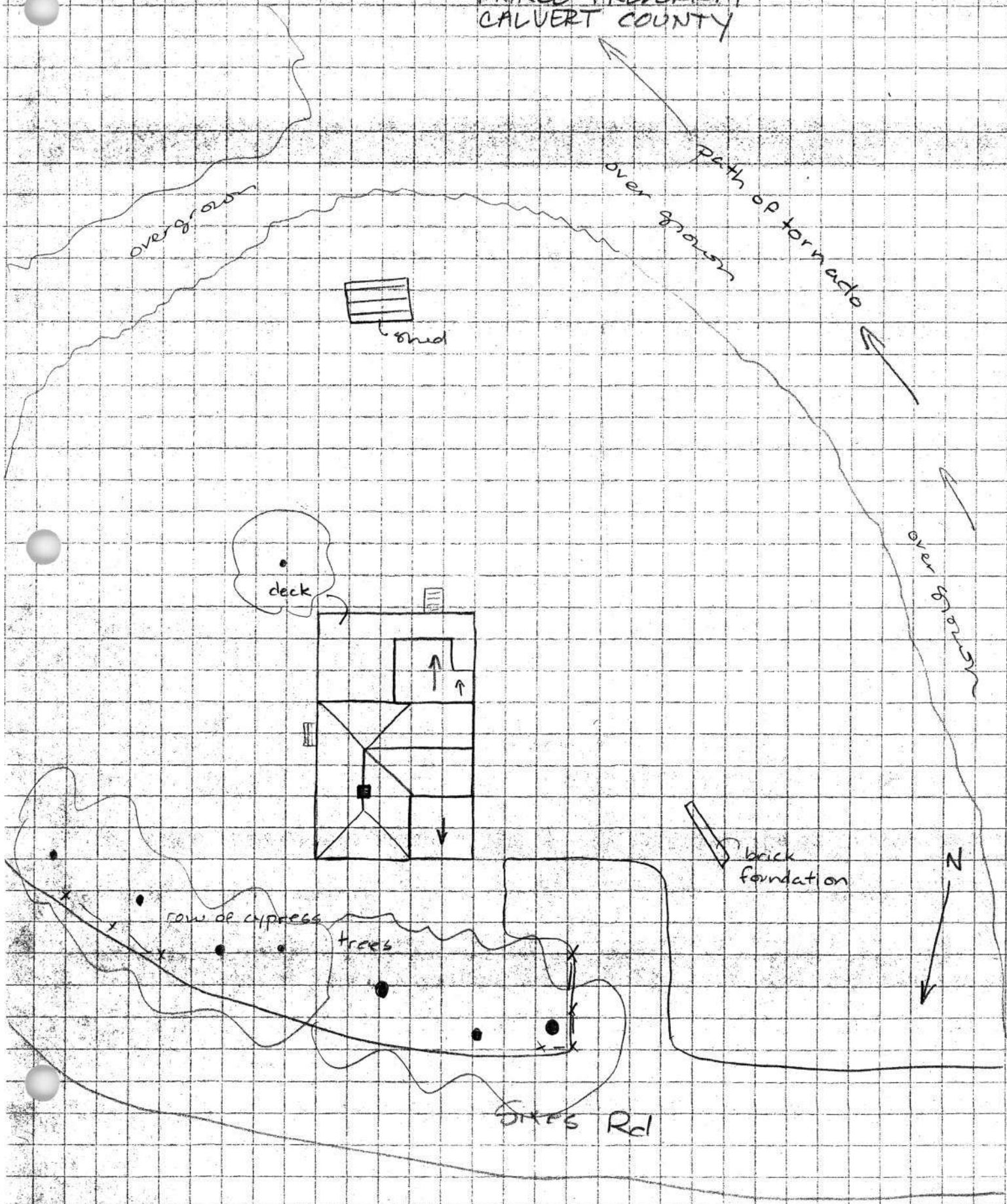
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Stinson, Merry. "Clarence Bowen House and Barns," CT-268. Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

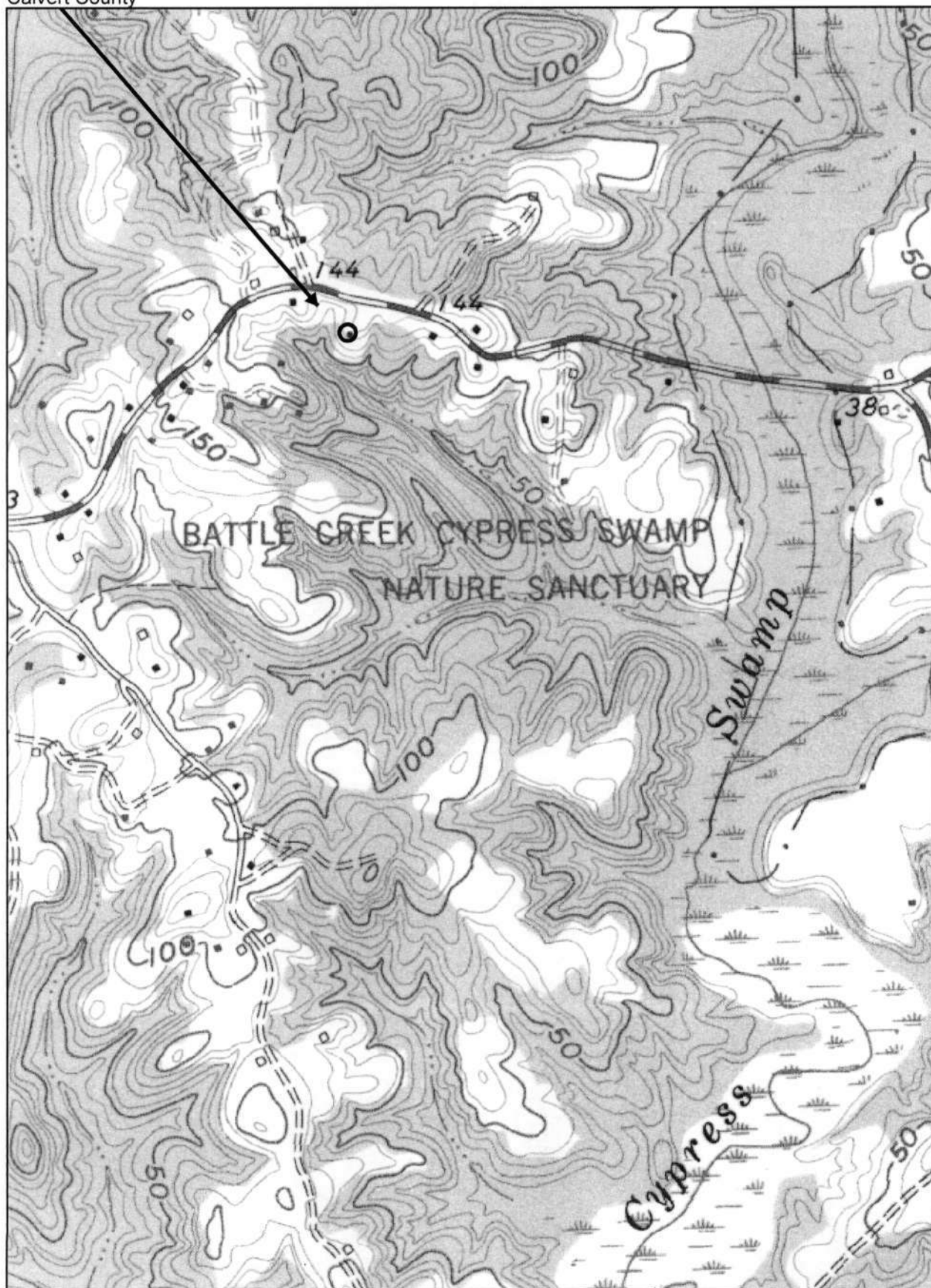
# RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

CT-268

3620 Sixes Road  
PRINCE FREDERICK,  
CALVERT COUNTY



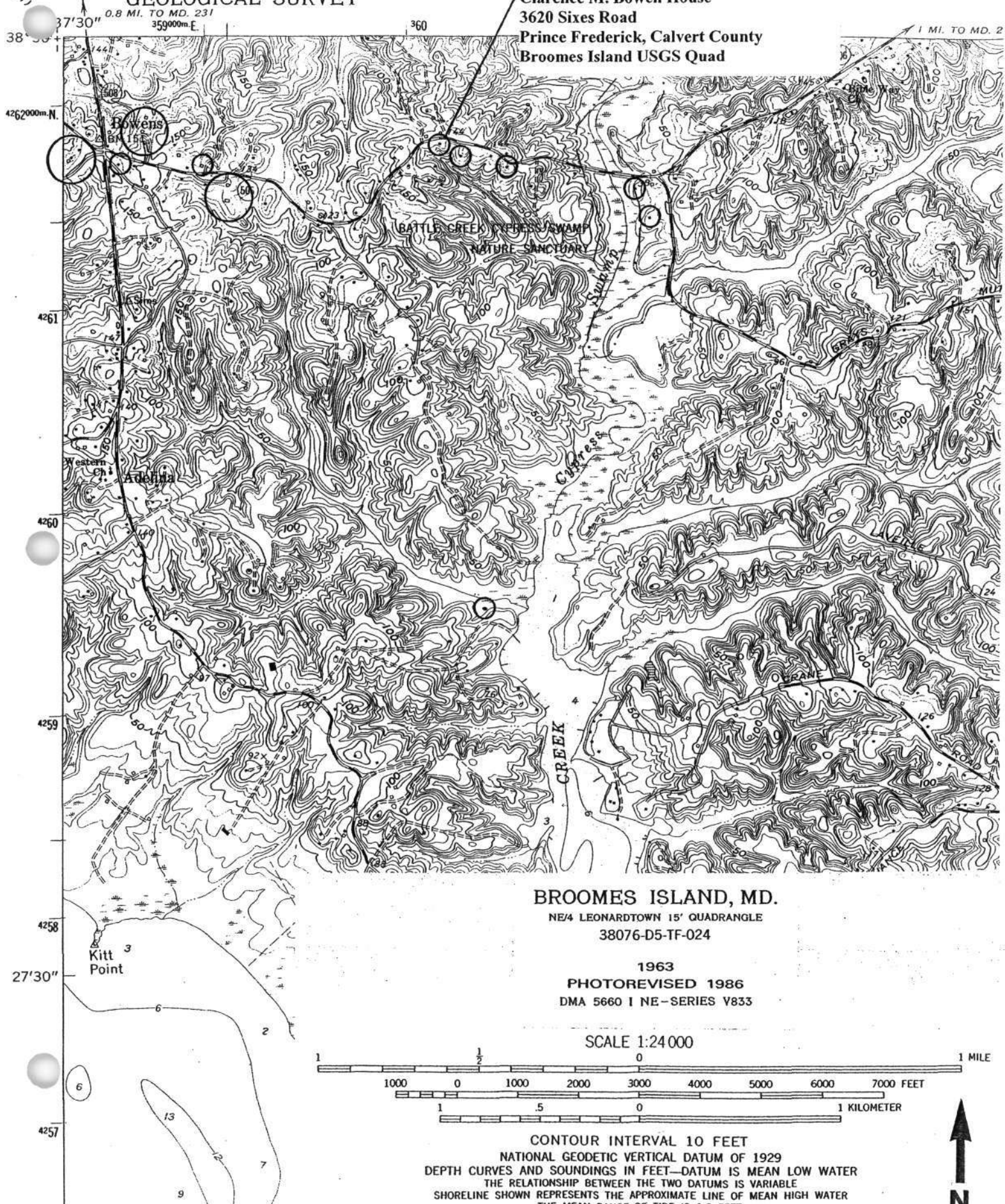
CT-267  
Julius Gray Tenant House  
Sixes Road (MD 506)  
Bowens  
Broomes Island Quad  
Calvert County



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CT-268

Clarence M. Bowen House  
3620 Sixes Road  
Prince Frederick, Calvert County  
Broomes Island USGS Quad

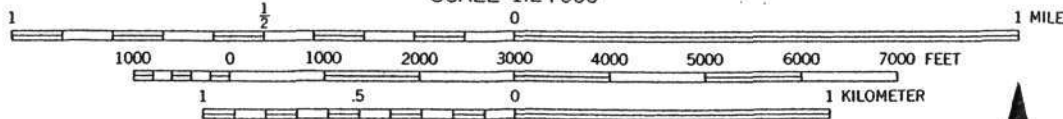


**BROOMES ISLAND, MD.**

NE/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE  
38076-D5-TF-024

1963  
PHOTOREVISED 1986  
DMA 5660 I NE-SERIES V833

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS 1.2 FEET





CT-268

CLARENCE M. BOWEN HOUSE

3620 Sixes Road

Calvert County, MD

Traceries

1/2003

MD SHPO

House, North Elevation

1 of 4



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CLARENCE M. BOWEN HOUSE

3620 Sixes Road

Calvert County, MD

Traceries

12/2002

MD SHPO

House, Southeast Corner

2 of 4



CT-268

CLARENCE M. BOWEN HOUSE

3620 Sixes Road

Calvert County, MD

Traceries

12/2002

MD SHPO

House, Southwest Corner

3 of 4



CT-268

CLARENCE M. BOWEN HOUSE

3680 Sixes Road

Calvert County, MD

Tracenes

12/2008

MD SHPO

House, west Elevation

4 of 4

CT-268

Clarence Bowen House and Barns

Bowens

early 20th century

Private

Clarence Bowen was a creative black carpenter known for the individual styling of his buildings. This house, his own residence, features pillars of stone-textured concrete blocks (made with Mr. Bowen's own machine) supporting an inset porch. The main two-story section is capped by a hip roof, while the rear ell has a gable roof.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Clarence Bowen House and Barns

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Sixes Road (Maryland Route 506)

CITY, TOWN

Bowens

VICINITY OF

STATE

MD

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Calvert

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES RESTRICTED  
☐ YES UNRESTRICTED  
☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Calvert County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Main Street (Maryland Route 765)

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE

MD

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Clarence Bowen was a creative black carpenter known for the individual styling of his buildings. This house, his own residence, features pillars of stone-textured concrete blocks (made with Mr. Bowen's own machine) supporting an inset porch. The main two-story section is capped by a hip roof, while the rear ell has a gable roof.

# SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD                                    |  | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC      | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING      | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION            | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE  | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS               | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION               | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING             | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY                | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION               |   |  |  |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Clarence Bowen (born      -died      ) was a black carpenter who is said to have worked on many buildings in this neighborhood including at least two barns on the other side of the road for himself. His niece, Mazie Washington, described him as an individual who could be expected to find his own solution to a given problem, a man who could produce "that which is "different". His house and the tobacco barn closest to the road are testimony to this characterization. In spite of such period features as 2/2 windows and formstone (which Bowen made with his own block machine) this house emerges as a well built, nicely designed structure that is pretty much one of a kind in appearance. The recessed porches and irregular plan are the main contributors to the feeling as they create an illusion of distorted proportions.

The proportions are distorted in the tobacco barn directly across the street (Barn #1). The vertical thrust of the main block of this barn is not only disproportionate to the sheds on either side but greater than that found in other barns of the same function. In spite of the many vents, this barn has the appearance of those tobacco barns in West Virginia and the Carolinas where flue airing is more prominent than air airing.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY** Significance statement: Wayne Nield. Form compiled by:

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY OR TOWN

May 1978  
DATE

TELEPHONE

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

CT-268

